material, said valve having a resting position wherein said flexible material sits with said slit against said blocking element such that said valve is [and being] closed to [block] the passage of liquid through said valve [therethrough while in said resting position], said valve [being movable] moving into an open position for the passage of liquid [therethrough] through said valve, upon the application of negative air pressure to the top of said valve, said open position being a position wherein said flexible member comprising said slit lifts off of said blocking element.

2. (Once Amended) An apparatus for use in a no-spill drinking cup, comprising:

a flexible valve member comprising a slit through said valve member, said valve member having a closed position and an open position, wherein said valve member sits against a [sealing portion] blocking element with said slit against said blocking element when in said closed position such that said [sealing portion] blocking element blocks the passage of fluid through said slit in said valve member, and wherein said valve member moves away from said [sealing portion] blocking element to allow passage of liquid though said slit of said valve member upon application of negative air pressure to said valve member.

3. [An apparatus for use in a] A no-spill cup apparatus, comprising:

a flexible valve member comprising an opening in said valve member, said flexible member having a proximal side and a distal side; and

a [sealing portion] blocking element, said [sealing portion] blocking element comprising a first area which is impenetrable to the flow of liquid therethrough, and a second area through which liquid can flow, said distal side of said flexible valve member resting against said sealing portion when said flexible valve member is in the resting, closed position such that said opening of said

flexible valve member rests against said first area when said flexible valve member is in said resting, closed position, said flexible valve member backing off said [sealing portion] blocking element upon the application of negative air pressure to said proximal side of said flexible valve member to allow fluid to flow through said second area of said [sealing portion] blocking element and through said opening of said flexible valve member.

4. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said first area is the central area of said [sealing portion] blocking element, and wherein said second area is the peripheral area of said [sealing portion] blocking element.

5. A no-spill drinking cup [assembly] apparatus, comprising:
a flexible valve member, said flexible valve member having an opening therein; and,
a [sealing portion] blocking element, said flexible valve member resting against said [sealing portion] blocking element when said valve member is in its closed position such that said opening sits against said [sealing portion] blocking element to block the passage of liquid through said opening.

6. An [assembly] apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, said flexible valve member further comprising an open position, said flexible valve member being displaced away from said [sealing portion] blocking element in said open position to provide liquid access to said opening, said flexible member assuming said open position upon application of negative air pressure to the top of said valve member.

7. An [assembly] apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said flexible valve member inverts upon

application of negative air pressure to said valve member to move said opening away from said [sealing portion] blocking element.

8. An [assembly] apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said flexible valve member is located in a valve assembly.

9. An [assembly] apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said valve assembly comprises at least one subunit for containing said valve member.

10. An [assembly] apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said valve assembly comprises at least two subunits, each of said subunits comprising a valve member therein.

11. An [assembly] apparatus as claimed in Claim 9. wherein said valve assembly comprises at least two subunits, a first subunit comprising a first valve member comprising a first opening, and a second subunit comprising a second valve member comprising a second opening, said first opening being larger than said second opening.

20. An [assembly] apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said [sealing portion] blocking element is located in said subunit.

21. An [assembly] apparatus as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said [sealing portion] blocking element comprises a center seal-off stop, said center seal-off stop comprising a solid central area impenetrable to liquid flow therethrough, and a peripheral region surrounding said central area, said peripheral region having at least one area open to the passage of liquid therethrough.